


 IPO
 APR 08 2002
 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 7099.1606

In re Application of:

) Group Art Unit: 2161

) Examiner: Unassigned

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APR 09 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine

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that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law,
Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding
the appropriate status of such documents.

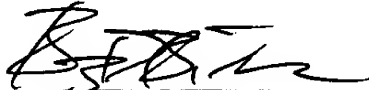
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the
patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of
the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 8, 2002

By: 
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	7099.1606	Appln. No.	09/961,419
Applicant	Richard M. RATLIFF et al.		
Filing Date	September 25, 2001	Group:	Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,331,546	07/19/94	Webber et al.	RECEIVED APR 09 2002 Technology Center 2100		
	5,995,943	11/30/99	Bull et al.			
	6,101,484	08/08/00	Halbert et al.			
	6,195,652	02/27/01	Fish			
	6,289,382	09/11/01	Bowman-Amuah			
	6,295,541	09/25/01	Bodnar et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce